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Penguins clad in Christmas-themed outfits walk during an event at Hakkeijima Sea Paradise in Yokohama, south of Tokyo November 27, 2012.

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Probability of oil reserves in Aruban waters!

ORANJESTAD -- Based on the new technology available to us today and in view of a recent re-evaluation of previous exploratory samples which show promise of potential petroleum or gas reserves, and on a recent large find in Venezuela, the Aruba government is intent on pursuing a new venture of exploration.

One strong indication for this new venture is because of the recent discoveries of reserves in Caribbean waters and in Venezuela. These reserves are not very far from the frontier of Aruba's territorial waters. The discovery was made recently in reserve number 4 "Perla" of



Venezuela which was about 15 to 20 miles outside of the territorial waters of Aruba. All of this is what increased the interest of Aruba to renew

our exploratory efforts.

In 2009 / 2010 the government decided that they would work on revising our petroleum law. Reportedly, they passed through the process of 4 companies who expressed interest in exploration. Hence, the government decided to come up with a transparent process. After placing several notices in technical magazines (for example, Oil and Gas) that Aruba is intent on exploring for oil and gas, there were several parties showing interest.

The government has decided to sit down with Repsol of Spain to deliberate and negotiate. Repsol of Spain is the same company that discovered the reserve in Venezuela, one of the largest reserves in the history of the Caribbean.

Chavez returns to Cuba for cancer treatment

CARACAS (AFP) - President Hugo Chavez returned to Cuba yesterday to continue treatment for cancer, he said in a letter to the country's National Assembly.

It would be the first time Chavez, who won re-election last month, has returned to Cuba for treatment since July when he claimed he was cancer free after a debilitating battle with the disease.

In a letter to the National Assembly, Chavez said that despite the intense re-election campaign he had been zealously following a "complementary treatment plan" ordered by his doctors.

He said they recommended undergoing "a special treatment consisting of various sessions of hyperbaric oxygenation along with physiotherapy to continue to consolidate the strengthening health I have been experiencing."

Chavez, who has never disclosed the type or severity of the cancer he had, underwent surgery for a tumor in his pelvic region last year in Cuba followed by multiple

rounds of chemotherapy after the cancer returned.

Since his re-election October 7, he has appeared in public only occasionally, mostly when he was leading a meeting of his cabinet at the presidential palace.

The 58-year-old, who has been in power since 1999 and gained international prominence as an anti-American firebrand, appeared weakened and subdued during the presidential campaign but he won a third term that extends to 2018.

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Marriott Aruba donates fun walk funds to Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad

Spirit to serve our communities



Marriott Sales & Events team hands over donation to a FPNC representative.

Recently the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino celebrated Global Customer Appreciation Week (GCAW), a Marriott International initiative to thank clients for their continued partnership. A part of the GCAW focuses on Marriott's Spirit to Serve Our Communities, giving back to the local community.

To support the local food bank, Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (FPNC), the resort organized a 5 km fun walk from the resort to Arashi and back to the resort. Over 150

participants signed up for the fun walk including locals, Marriott associates and guests of the resort. The contribution included a T-shirt, refreshments and an eco-friendly sports bottle. After a zumba warm up provided by Denise Krosendijk-Pechacek participants headed towards Arashi Beach.

After the event, door prizes were handed out including dinners at the various restaurants of the Marriott and a weekend stay at Marriott Aruba.

Marriott's sales and events team donated the funds afterwards to the Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad.

With the donation, FPNC is able to donate food baskets to the less fortunate families in Aruba, especially during the holiday season.

The Aruba Marriott would like to thank all participants, IBISA and Denise Krosendijk-Pechacek for their participation and looks forward to organize this again next year.

Changes in hours services at the Aruba Tax Office

ORANJESTAD – The Aruba Tax Service announces to the general public that, in connection with the celebration of Tax Day, there will be a change in office hours on Friday, November 30, 2012.

The changes are as follows:

Place	Section	November 30, 2012
Main Office at Camacuri	Cash register service	7:45 am - 3:30 p.m. NON-STOP (Numbers available until 2:30 p.m.)
	Client service Reception	
Auxiliary office in San Nicolas	Cash register service	8:30 am - 2:30 pm NON-STOP
	Client service	
Auxiliary office in Savaneta, Sta. Cruz and Paradera	Cash register service	8:30 am - 2:30 pm NON-STOP

The Aruba Tax Services kindly request all clients to take notice of the changes to avoid any inconvenience and thank everyone for their understanding and cooperation.

Public Ministry to continue collecting overdue fines during Holidays

ORANJESTAD -- The Office of the Public Ministry announces that it will continue collecting overdue fines during upcoming holidays. The Ministry will put extra emphasis on the collection, because of the Christmas bonus most workers receive. Those with overdue fines can use the extra money during the holiday season to relieve their obligation. The Public Ministry will collect the overdue fines in cooperation with the CEA (Aruba Special Forces)

The collecting will continue as usual. Persons who receive a visit at home by CEA personnel must either pay the fine otherwise they will be taken to KIA - Aruba's Correctional Institute. In case there is no one at home, CEA personnel will leave a notice behind of their visit and a request to pay the fine as soon as possible at the Public Ministry offices. When someone is at home, CEA personnel will

give that person the chance to pay the fine ON THE SPOT. Otherwise that person will be taken to KIA.

All scofflaws who still have not paid their overdue fine can still do it. Do not let this chance pass by. If not, then do not be surprised if a CEA personnel visit you at home

The Public Ministry cash register hours are from Monday to Friday, 7:30 to 11:30 am and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Payments can be made in cash, check or by swiping your bank card.

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Obama hosts small-business owners on fiscal cliff



WASHINGTON -- President Obama yesterday met with small-business owners and middle-class Americans to build support for his plan to avert the automatic budget cuts and tax hikes known as the fiscal cliff, according to a White House official.

With five weeks remaining for Mr. Obama and congressional Republicans to make a deal before the drastic changes go into effect on New Year's Day, the president also plans to go on the road Friday and make his case at the Pennsylvania manufacturing facility for Tinkertoys and other toys, the official said.

Mr. Obama wants to keep in place the Bush-era tax cuts for the first \$250,000 American families earn, but not for higher incomes. Democrats instead want to raise tax rates for higher wage-earners. That's a major sticking point with Republicans, who have shown signs of approval toward reducing some deductions and loopholes to generate revenue, but not for raising rates.

Today, Mr. Obama plans to meet with middle-class Americans who responded to a White House call for stories about how a tax increase would affect them, the White House official said.

Good4TheNeighborhood looks back on successful weekend!

Seven schools, seven Barrios, seven recreational areas and a multitude of neighbors were motivated to Upgrade their Barrio! During the past weekend the Good4The Neighborhood 'Upgrade Bo Barrio,' people all across the island came out and supported the clean up action in the seven barrios as well as helped to fix up seven recreational areas. Entire communities came together and demonstrated their social responsibility and contributed to the development of our young people.

Good4TheNeighborhood is in its third consecutive year and they are proud of the enthusiasm and dynamism of our young people. In this tremendous project, the brainchild of Aruba Bank, youngsters get the opportunity to develop various social, professional, and organizational abilities, and execute these in a project for the community.

Aruba Bank, and in particular, the dynamic Good4The Neighborhood team is especially grateful to the schools, students and teachers who participated once more and made



the project such a success. Special thanks to the entire team and the management of SERLI-MAR, who did a fantastic job in the barrios during the weekend.

Aruba Bank also expresses

special thanks to the entire community of Aruba who supported our young people enormously and contributed to the success of the 'Upgrade Bo Barrio' 2012 project.

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An extravagant end to Renaissance Island Xtravaganza 2012 this Saturday



Zugheila, Tirzane, Edalitzza and Ufo

The fourth annual holiday shopping event at the Renaissance Mall and Marketplace in Aruba and their Curacao facility is about to come to end. The Island Xtravaganza team of Edalitzza Weller, Tirzane Williams and Zugheila Lindborg announced that the final drawing for fabulous prizes will on Saturday, December 1, at 9:00 PM.

The day will start at 10:00 with special offers by many of the vendors of the two malls bordering Oranjestad Harbor. Shops will offer terrific discounts for holiday shoppers, with a raffle ticket awarded for every 25 Aruban florins, (\$14) spent. Have them stamped at the Island Xtravaganza desk and deposit in tumblers at both malls to be eligible to win one nine fabulous prizes. First prize is a 2013 Hyundai Sonata.

Other prizes are:

- 7 day cruise for 2 including airfare
- Trip for 2 to New York
- Trip for 2 to Curacao
- \$1000 Renaissance Mall and Marketplace Gift Certificate
- 2 Royal Romance



First prize a Hyundai Sonata

Dinners for 2 at L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House & couple's massage at Okeanos Spa

- Royal Romance Lunch for 4 at Aquarius Restaurant with massage at Okeanos Spa

- A Couple's Massage with the Okeanos Spa at their exclusive cove on Renaissance Island

- Participating tours can win a return trip to Aruba for 2

Raffle tickets must be deposited in the tumbler by 8:00 PM; no more will be accepted after that hour. Members at the

Crystal and Seaport Casinos can also use their points to earn raffle tickets. Winners must be present with a valid, government issued photo ID to claim their prize.

The final day of Island Xtravaganza will be filled with music, entertainment and activities for all ages, culminating in the drawing on L.G. Smith Boulevard, next to the main stage. A kid's corner will have face painting, arts and crafts and lots of fun to keep youngsters busy while parents do their holiday shopping. There will be

a Zumba session beginning at 10:00 AM. In the evening, top local bands will perform. Acoustic Soul will be accompanied by a "happy hour" and Tsunami will be on hand.

It is always an exciting, fun way for Aruban's to do their holiday shopping, with the potential of great rewards. The Island Xtravaganza invites island residents and visitors to join them for this day full of free activities and entertainment, discounted dining and shopping.

Rosalie Klein

Government submits prevention program to FADA



ORANJESTAD -- On International Day of the Child, the Minister of Public Health summoned the director of FADA to his office for the presentation of the book, "Paga Tino," - "Pay Attention" - which is a prevention program. This is a prevention program which originally was designed by "Focus on the Family" in the United States.

The program is primarily geared to young people to help them in making responsible decisions in their daily situations. It has been adapted for our local situations. The decisions young people must make daily have to do with music, television, internet, alcohol, drugs, sex and more. The intention of the program is to help young people become resistant to and understand how to deal with certain situations in their daily lives.

The prevention program focuses on schools, youth cen-

ters, youth clubs, associations, parents and social settings around these.

With the support of "De Hoop" in Holland and Curacao, after one and a half years we are able to present the program to the Aruban community. In this way we are able to help the next generation of young people. The book received financial support from FDA.

Very soon they will begin offering workshops of "Train the Trainers" to introduce the program to our island. The FADA foundation will be coordinating the introduction of the program. Everyone interested in the program should contact FADA. The government hopes that this program will contribute greatly to a healthy and wholesome development of our youth, and wish FADA much success with its introduction.

Hobennan "Paga Tino!"

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The BarbaRosa Project continues at Santa Rosa

ORANJESTAD -- Since the beginning of November, Santa Rosa began their BarbaRosa Project with the objective of creating awareness and giving support to the health of males in our community.

The month of November has been dedicated globally to the health of males with special emphasis on prostate cancer.

Randy Maduro, public person at Santa Rosa has taken the challenge of not shaving his face for the entire month of November up to December 2nd. His goal is to use this challenge to earn funds for the Edmund Harms Foundation.

Employees of Santa Rosa together with several farmers, livestock farmers and fishermen as well as friends of Santa Rosa are supporting the project by donating Afls.1 for every day that Randy Maduro (BarbaRosa) does not shave.

Anyone who wishes to donate to this worthy cause can do so daily at Santa Rosa, or call Ludwig Rasmijn who is the coordinator of the project at 585-8102.



On the 2nd of December during the Christmas Bazaar at Santa Rosa, a public person will shave BarbaRosa on stage and present the donation collected to a representative of the Edmund Harms Foundation.

Santa Rosa is inviting the general public to become part of this special project which is very important for our male population.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

White House: no 'unanswered questions' on Rice

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House insisted yesterday there were no "unanswered questions" about UN ambassador Susan Rice's role in the Benghazi controversy, after her apparently discordant meeting with top Republicans.

White House spokesman Jay Carney also condemned the "obsession" in Washington about comments Rice made soon after the attacks on television, as a row rumbled on that could hurt her chances of becoming the next secretary of state.

"There are no unanswered questions about Ambassador Rice's appearances on Sunday shows," Carney said, referring to her comments, which were based on now-discredited CIA assessments about the nature of the September 11 attack.

Carney also condemned the fixation of some administration critics on what Rice said on Sunday talk shows about the attack, which killed four Americans, including the US ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens.

"People are more interested in talking points for a Sunday

show several months ago, than they are in finding out what happened in Benghazi," Carney said.

President Barack Obama, he argued, was more interested in the result of State Department and FBI probes into the killings and on bringing to justice those responsible.

Rice met Republican senators John McCain, Lindsey Graham and Kelly Ayotte earlier in an effort to quell the controversy over her remarks, but appeared to do little to assuage critics who said they were more concerned than before.

In her appearances on September 16, she said it was the government's "best assessment" that the assault appeared to have started from a "spontaneous" reaction against an amateur anti-Muslim video made on American soil.

In a statement issued after the meeting yesterday, Rice admitted for the first time that the talking points were "were incorrect in a key respect: there was no protest or demonstration in Benghazi."

Woman dies as hundreds flee homes in flooded Welsh city

ST ASAPH, United Kingdom (AFP) - An elderly woman was found dead in her flooded home in the tiny Welsh city of St Asaph yesterday after the nearby river burst its banks on the seventh day of torrential rains across Britain.

The Environment Agency urged residents to evacuate 500 homes in the deluged cathedral city in north Wales, after the River Elwy reached a record high and surged over flood defences.

Prime Minister David Cameron visited flood-hit areas of southwest England, where two other people have been killed since high winds and heavy rains began battering the country last Wednesday.

The Environment Agency had issued two severe flood warnings in Wales, including one in St Asaph, indicating a risk of death.

The agency said the River Elwy had reached a record level of 4.35 meters (14 feet



A man pushes a bike through flood waters in St Asaph, North Wales

three inches) and was still rising.

Water was waist-height in some parts of St Asaph, an AFP photographer said.

Although it has a population of just 3,400, St Asaph was awarded city status this year to mark Queen Elizabeth II's diamond jubilee.

Around 900 Britons have already abandoned their homes

in addition to the 500 in St Asaph who have been advised to leave, while Britain's road and rail network have suffered days of chaos.

The Environment Agency said the rain was set to ease off in the next two days but warned that, with the ground already saturated, any further wet weather could prolong the chaos.

US teenager shot dead after loud music row

MIAMI (AFP) - A Florida teenager is dead after being gunned down by a man who moments earlier had asked the victim and his friends to turn down the music coming from a car stereo, justice officials said yesterday.

Jordan Davis, 17, was hit at least twice by bullets fired by Michael Dunn, a 45-year-old businessman who is in custody over the incident which took place Friday in Jacksonville, said Sheriff's Department Lieutenant Rob Schoonover.

The shooting occurred after Dunn, who is white, approached Davis, who was black, to complain about loud music coming from the sport utility vehicle (SUV) in which the youngsters were seated.

"Jordan and Dunn exchanged words, and Dunn

pulled a gun and shot eight or nine times, striking Jordan twice. No one else was hurt," said Schoonover.

No firearms were found in the SUV.

Dunn, whose girlfriend was shopping in a local store when the incident occurred, was in town for his son's wedding. He left the scene and returned to his hotel but he was later

traced from closed-circuit television footage.

Ron Davis, the victim's father, told local television that he wants to see justice done, "whether it be through the legal system," or God.

"God's going to punish him for that, so me, I don't want to do anything to him," Davis told the WAWS television channel.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Nicaraguan ships deploy to zone claimed by Colombia

MANAGUA (AFP) - Nicaragua said yesterday it had deployed Coast Guard ships to a fishing area of the Caribbean that the UN International Court of Justice recently ruled belongs to it and not to nearby Colombia.

The head of Nicaragua's army, General Julio Cesar Aviles, told reporters that patrols had not seen any Colombian vessels in the region and that the ships "will remain there because it is a duty, an obligation."

On November 19 the ICJ in The Hague awarded Colombia sovereignty over a group of disputed Caribbean islands, including the small islands of San Andres and Providencia,

and 12 nautical miles of ocean surrounding the islands.

But it also ruled that the maritime frontier between Nicaragua and Colombia should be moved east, marking a territorial gain for Nicaragua. Colombia rejected the ruling and said it is studying its legal options.

President Daniel Ortega announced late Monday that Nicaragua had begun to "exert sovereignty" over their new ocean border, and will grant permits to ships from countries that want to fish in the area.

San Andres and Providencia depend on fishing and tourism, but both have been largely paralyzed since the ICJ ruling.

Gas explosion blamed for deadly German fire



AFP photo shows firefighters working at the scene of a fire at a workshop for handicapped people in Titisee-Neustadt, southern Germany on November 26, 2012. An explosion following a gas leak triggered the fierce blaze in a workshop for the disabled which killed 14 people, officials said yesterday. All but one of the dead from the fire which began on Monday at the center were handicapped, police said. A preliminary investigation against unknown persons into suspected negligent manslaughter and negligent arson has been opened but does not mean prosecutors already have suspicions in this direction, the official said.

Wave of attacks kills 19 in Iraq

BAGHDAD - A wave of attacks including six car bombs, nine roadside bombs and a shooting killed 19 people and wounded 71 others yesterday in Iraq, security and medical officials said.

The violence was mainly centered in Baghdad, where Shiites were targeted, and the country's north, which has seen high tensions in areas the autonomous Kurdistan wants to incorporate over the strong objections of the federal government.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attacks, but the use of car bombs indicate Sunni insurgents may be behind the violence, known for often carrying out



A Kurdish security officer stands guard next to the destroyed headquarters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (PDK) after a bomb attack in Kirkuk, some 250 kms (155 miles) north of Baghdad

attacks against Iraq's Shiite majority. Other reports sug-

gest al-Qaeda in Iraq might be behind the bombings.

Largest 'Dirty War' trial set to open in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - A trial involving 800 cases of human rights abuses during Argentina's 1976-1983 military junta is set to open today, chronicling the use of torture and murder during the dictatorship.

The trial in Buenos Aires, "was, is and will be the largest trial of crimes against humanity" in Argentina, said rights attorney Rodolfo Yanzon.

"There are 68 defendants charged in 800 cases, and we estimate there will be some 900 witnesses," he told AFP, adding that testimony in the case could take between 18 and 24 months.

The infamous "death flights" -- the practice of throwing live prisoners into the sea from aircraft -- will figure prominently in the trial, Yanzon said.

Some 30,000 people were kidnapped, tortured and killed in what became known as Argentina's "Dirty War," according to rights groups. Victims included Montonero guerrillas, labor union leaders, students, and leftist sympathizers.

The trial is part of an effort to probe torture and crimes against humanity committed at a notorious ESMA Naval Mechanics School -- 5,000 regime opponents are believed to have been sent to ESMA, of which only a fraction survived.

Included in the trial will be the case of French-born nun Leonie Duquet, who was allegedly kidnapped and killed on a "death flight."

The bodies of Duquet and three members of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo -- a rights group helping regime victims - washed up on a beach in Buenos Aires province in 1977. Locals initially buried the women under headstones that read "NN," or no name.

The trial's defendants include eight "death flight" pilots -- among them is Julio Poch, a Dutch national and a former Argentine naval aviator extradited from Spain in May 2010.

Until his arrest Poch was working as a pilot for Transavia, a subsidiary of Air France and KLM. His work colleagues turned him in when

Poch recounted stories from his days in the Argentine navy.

Other defendants include former navy captain Alfredo Astiz, the "Blonde Angel of Death," who allegedly helped kidnap four members of the Mothers rights group, including its founder Azucena Villafior, as well as Duquet and Alice Domon, another French nun who is still missing. An Argentine court sentenced Astiz to life in prison for torture, murder and rights abuses in October 2011.

Pro-junta civilians will also be on trial, including former finance minister Juan Alemann, who allegedly witnessed the torture of a man suspected of attempting to murder him.

A blanket pardon for dictatorship crimes was overturned in 2003, paving the way for lawsuits.

In September a Crimes Against Humanity Board report found that between 2008 and July 2012 there were 61 trials for crimes committed by the military dictatorship, with 270 convictions.

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Health & Living

Nearly half a million Arabs HIV-infected: UN

RIYADH (AFP) - The United Nations said that the number of people in Arab countries infected with HIV more than doubled to 470,000 in the eight years to 2009.

"The number of adults and children living with HIV has more than doubled between 2001 and 2009 from 180,000 to 470,000," according to data from UNAIDS, the UN programme on HIV and AIDS.

New HIV infections increased from 43,000 in 2001 to 59,000 in 2009, it said at a

meeting in Riyadh on combating AIDS, organised by the Arab League and the Saudi government.

The number of deaths from AIDS also surged from about 8,000 in 2001 to 24,000 in 2009.

In Djibouti and Somalia, the percentage of infected people represents 2.5 percent and 0.7 percent of the countries' respective populations.

"These figures are very worrying and need an immediate response," it said in an Arabic-

language statement.

The figures appear in contrast with the global trend.

UNAIDS said last week that 25 low- and middle-income countries had managed to at least halve their rate of new HIV infections since 2001, representing a reduction of 700,000 new HIV infections.

Globally, new HIV infections fell to 2.5 million last year from 2.6 million in 2010 and represented a 20-percent drop from 2001, it said.

1.3 million overdiagnosed for breast cancer in US: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - More than a million US women have received unnecessary and invasive cancer treatments over the last 30 years, thanks to routine mammograms that detected harmless tumors, scientists said.

The results throw new doubt over the effectiveness of an already controversial cancer screening tool that is aimed at detecting tumors before they spread and become more difficult to treat.

"We estimated that breast

cancer was overdiagnosed -- i.e., tumors were detected on screening that would never have led to clinical symptoms -- in 1.3 million US women in the past 30 years," authors Gilbert Welch of Dartmouth Medical School and Archie Bleyer of the Oregon Health & Science University, wrote in a study published Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"We estimated that in 2008, breast cancer was overdiagnosed in more than 70,000

women; this accounted for 31% of all breast cancers diagnosed," they added.

These women likely received major medical interventions -- including surgery, radiology, hormone therapy and chemotherapy -- that ought only to be used when absolutely necessary, the authors stressed.

They also concluded the significant drop in breast cancer deaths can be best explained by the improvement in treatments, rather than the early detection through mammograms.

Another study -- which compared European countries where mammograms became routine in the 1990s with ones where they became common in the 2000s -- concluded that the screening tool did not lessen the number of deaths at all.

Despite significant progress, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women and the one that kills the most women around the world.

Each year, another 1.4 million cases of the disease are diagnosed worldwide.

European police bust Iranian people-smuggling ring

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Police have smashed a major ring that smuggled illegal Iranian migrants into Europe where they were given false papers to travel on to Britain or Canada, Europol said Tuesday.

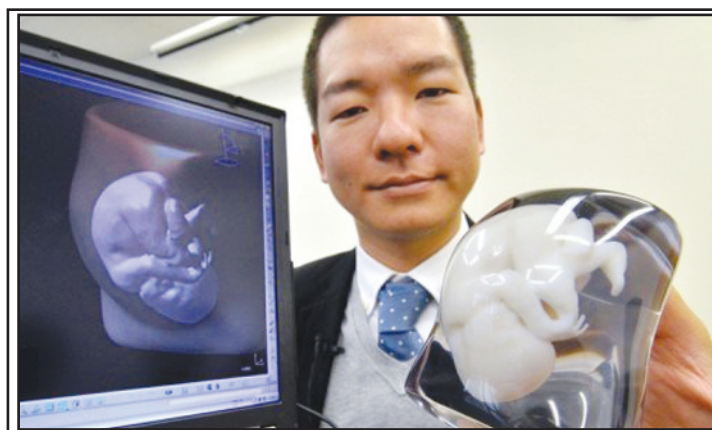
The gang -- which mainly operated out of Spain -- allegedly asked Iranian migrants for large sums of money -- up to 18,000 euros (\$23,000) -- before smuggling them to Turkey by car and then across the border into Greece.

The travel continued to other countries within the (European Union's) Schengen area in order to take advantage of

the free movement," Europol said.

The illegal migrants stayed in transit countries until they were given false documents in order to continue to their final destinations "in most cases (non-Schengen member) the United Kingdom and Canada."

Earlier this year, Ottawa passed a tougher law against human smuggling in response to a recent wave of illegal migrant ships arriving on its Pacific Coast. A conviction for organizing illegal entry into Canada carries a potential penalty of life imprisonment or a \$1,000,000 fine, or both.



CHIBA (AFP) : This photo taken on November 26, 2012 shows Japan's 3D computer-aided design (CAD) venture Fasotec employee Tomohiro Kinoshita displaying a nine-month fetus and mother's body image, made of two-colour acrylic resin at the company's headquarters in Chiba, suburban Tokyo. Expectant parents in Japan who can't wait to show the world what their baby will look like can now buy a 3D model of the foetus to pass around their friends. The nine-centimetre (3.6-inch) resin model of the white foetus, encased in a transparent block in the shape of the mother's body, is fashioned by a 3D printer after an MRI scan.

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Sci-Tech

Toyota, Honda tops for resale value in surveys

-- Toyota and Honda are scoring big in two competing indexes that measure how well new cars are expected to retain their value.

For the second year, Toyota and its luxury brand, Lexus, hold the top spots overall when it comes to resale value in Kelley Blue Book's predictions announced at the Los Angeles Auto Show. And Honda and its Acura luxury division are the big winners in a similar survey by ALG, which also tracks expected car depreciation.

When it comes to individual models in various car categories, Honda did well in KBB's survey with Honda Fit, Civic and Accord, which all were the leaders of their respective categories.

ALG, once known as Automotive Lease Guide, gave a big nod to Hyundai in its indi-

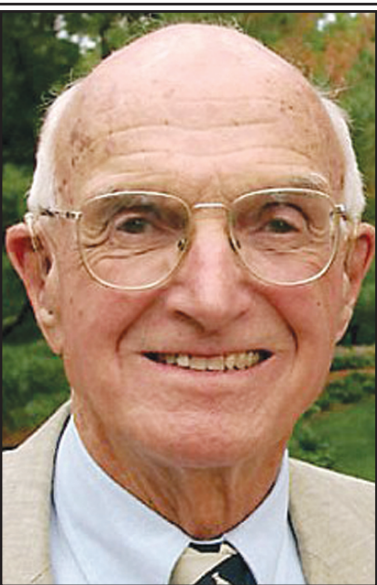
vidual rankings. Elantra, Azera and Santa Fe were category leaders.

Overall, the value of a new car bought today is expected to be worth 38.2% of its original value in five years, KBB says. That's an increase of 2.5 percentage points compared with the 2012 model-year average from the same period last year.

For Toyota, the place atop KBB's 2013 Residual Analysis Report shows how far it's come since the multitude of recalls and safety questions around its vehicles in the wake of unintended-acceleration fears a couple of years ago. It, as did other Japanese automakers, also saw a dramatic drop in inventory following the 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami. This year, Toyota has been posting record sales increases.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Dr. Joseph Murray, who won the Nobel Prize for performing the first-ever successful organ transplant, died late Monday at the age of 93, according to the Boston Globe. After suffering a stroke Thursday, Murray passed away at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he had performed the landmark kidney transplant on Ronald and Richard Herrick on December 23, 1954, the newspaper reported.

Born on April 1, 1919 in Milford, Massachusetts, Murray traced his interest in the emerging science of transplants to the three years he spent on the surgical ward of an army hospital in Pennsylvania during World War II. There surgeons would often treat severely burned soldiers with skin grafts from cadavers as a temporary measure. He won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1990, sharing the honor with E. Donnall Thomas, who pioneered bone marrow transplants. Their discoveries have been used to cure or provide a decent life for tens of thousands of severely ill patients.

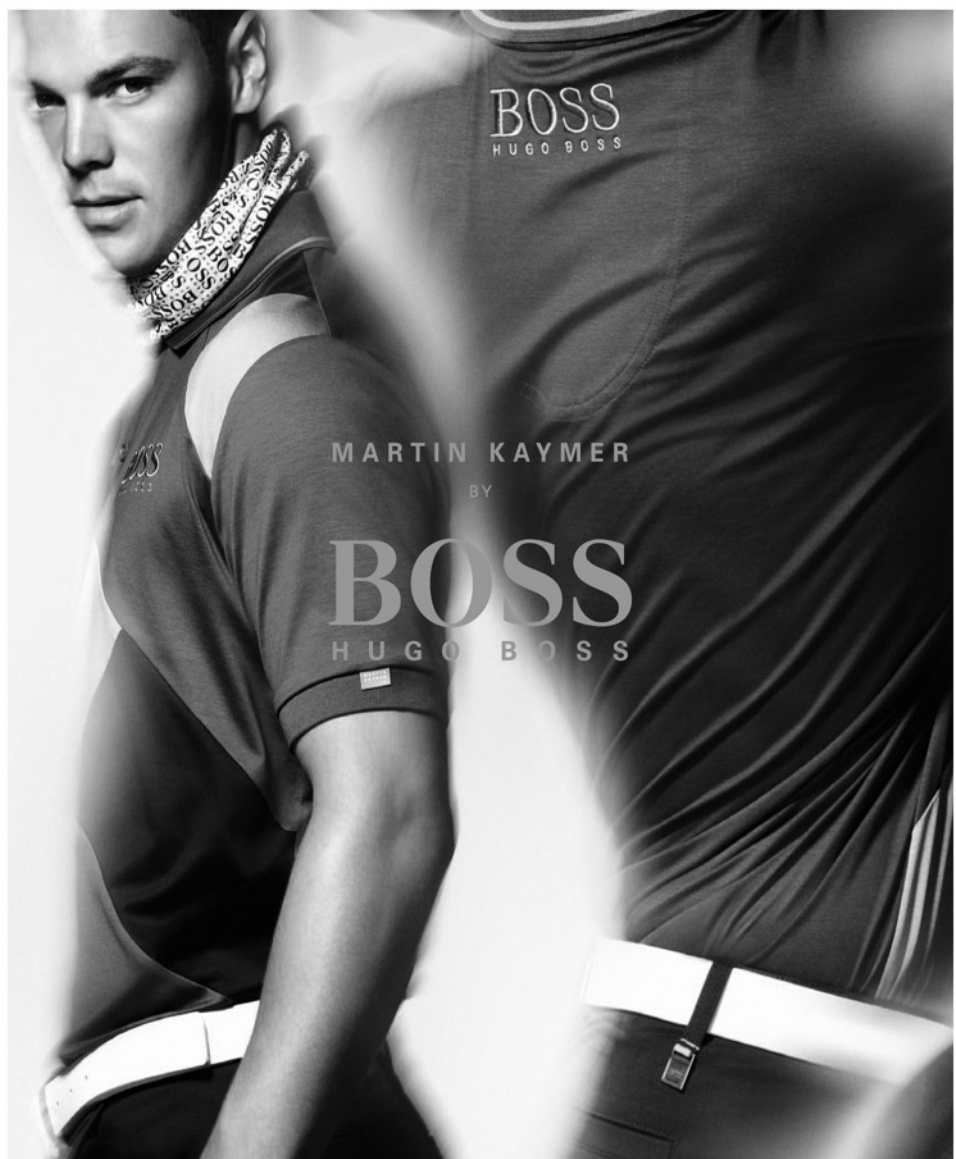


Australian wildlife taught to shun cane toads

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australia's native animals are being fed nauseating sausages of cane toad meat in a bid to train them against eating the foul, toxic species as it spreads into new areas, researchers said.

Cane toads, a warty, leathery creature with a venom sac on their heads toxic enough to kill snakes and crocodiles, are advancing across north-western Australia at a speed of 50 kilometres (31 miles) a year. Native

animals, particularly small marsupials and lizards, will die if they eat a full-grown adult and conservationists are attempting to give them a repellent first taste of toad to train them against seeing it as food.



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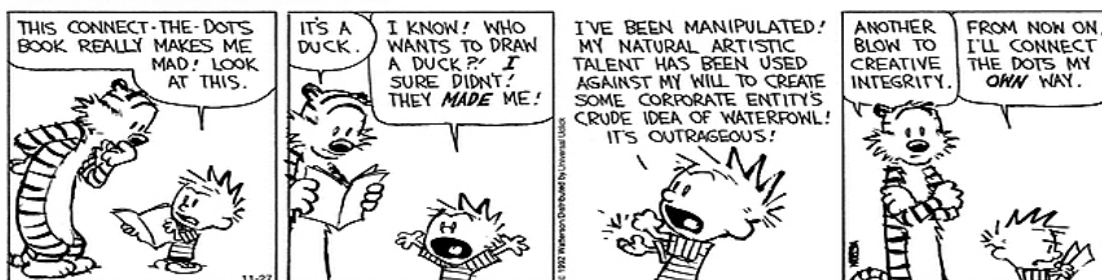
PICKLES



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KEEPING TIME

ACROSS

1. Paul Newman film
4. Fancy pillowcase
8. Tuberous starch source
11. Critic Bentley
13. Symbol for The Saint
14. His mascot is a bulldog
15. Members of a Revolutionary militia
17. Computer command key
18. "And ___ bed"
19. Leading performer
21. ___ the air (unsettled)
24. Charcoal

DOWN

27. Notwithstanding
30. Native of Lodz
31. Enrage
32. Grammatical categories
35. "This ___ House"
36. Eek and Meek, e.g.
38. Flimflammed
40. Paddock sound
42. Shipshape, upstairs
43. Deficiency
45. Weisshorn et al.
48. Group of whales
50. Showy summer perennials

ACROSS

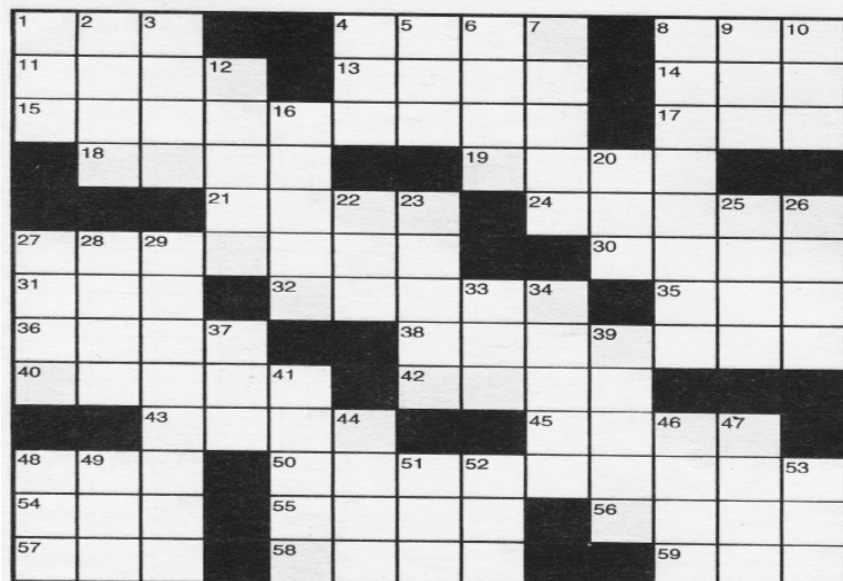
54. Wonder
55. Word on a coffee can
56. ___ in a while
57. Calendar abbr.
58. Desires
59. Chowd down

DOWN

1. Partner of haw
2. "Battle Cry" author Leon
3. Flintstones Vitamin shape
4. "___ Done Him Wrong" (Mae West film)
5. Omelet meat
6. Rathskeller offerings

DOWN

7. Three-card ___
8. Senior's souvenir
9. Inclusive word
10. School for sci. lovers
12. Prankster, informally
16. Matter at hand
20. Electrical unit, for short
22. "Give ___ rest!"
23. Wrens' homes
25. Pronoun for Fifi
26. Comedian Foxx
27. Darkens
28. Emerald Isle, in poetry
29. Endorsed
33. Time span
34. Biblical mount
37. "___ I saw Elba"
39. Yo-Yo's instrument
41. Talking toy Ruxpin
44. Draw a line in the sand
46. ___ cloth (lingerie fabric)
47. Hassidim, for one
48. One of a kitty's four
49. Be beholden
51. ___ and Yang
52. CDs' predecessors
53. Comprehend



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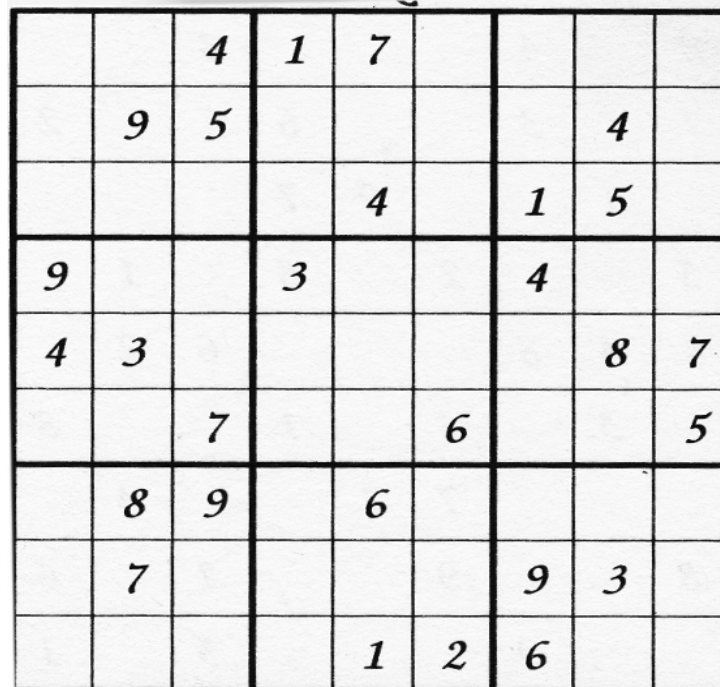
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	4	9	2	1	6	5	7	3
2	5	6	7	5	8	1	4	9
4	1	5	8	9	4	6	8	2
5	6	8	9	2	7	4	1	3
4	8	2	1	6	5	9	7	3
1	9	7	4	8	5	2	3	6
5	1	6	7	9	8	2	4	3
9	7	4	8	5	2	3	6	1
6	2	8	5	4	1	7	9	3

Complete the grid so that every
row and every column contains
the numbers 1 through 9A number is Never repeated
in a row or column.In addition every rectangle must
contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Britain appoints Canada's Carney to head Bank of England



LONDON (AFP) - Britain has named Canadian central bank chief Mark Carney as the new Bank of England governor, the first time a foreigner has been chosen to lead the institution which is in a period of enormous change.

Finance minister George Osborne told lawmakers that the 47-year-old Carney was the "outstanding central banker of his generation", while Mr Carney himself said he was honoured to be picked.

US: China not currency manipulator

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Treasury ruled yesterday that China does not manipulate its currency, but said nevertheless that the renminbi remains undervalued.

In a twice-yearly finding to answer congressional critics of China's overwhelming bilateral trade advantage, the Treasury said Beijing did not meet the definition of a currency manipulator under US law, which could spark US trade sanctions.

The Treasury argued that China knows that an appreciating currency is in its own interest, and said the renminbi (RMB), also called the yuan, gained 9.3 percent against the dollar between June 2010 and November 2012.

US consumer confidence hits best level since 2008

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US consumer confidence rose this month to its highest level since February 2008, the Conference Board said today, as expectations of the future brightened despite the looming fiscal cliff.

The monthly survey saw the consumer confidence index rise to 73.7, up from 73.1 in October, with those surveyed more optimistic about the short-term outlook. But consumers showed only a little improvement in their view of the lackluster jobs market, and income expectations slipped.

The consumer confidence survey came after the November 6 presidential election and at the beginning of the holiday shopping season which saw consumers open up their wallets in stores and online at a better-than-expected pace.

"Over the past few months, consumers have grown increasingly more upbeat about the current and expected state of the job market, and this turnaround in sentiment is helping to boost confidence," said Lynn Franco of the Conference Board. The higher index level suggested consumers are not worried about the looming package of sizable tax hikes and spending cuts to be implemented from January 1 if politicians cannot compromise on an alternative deficit-cutting plan.

Economists say the fiscal cliff policies will slice huge chunks out of households' disposable incomes and send the economy back into recession.

Eurozone-IMF deal buys more time for Greece

ATHENS (AFP) - The eurozone and IMF saved Greece from bankruptcy yesterday in a re-drawn rescue that Greek leaders said marked a new beginning for a country facing further austerity in the midst of recession.

The deal brought forth a compromise by the IMF, an admission that Greece will need help with its debt for years, removes the imminent risk of default, and minimises the chances that the country might have to leave the eurozone.

The accord struck in the early hours of yesterday after 13 hours of talks marks a "new day" for Greece, Prime Minister Antonis Samaras said, but protests against austerity measures continued in Athens.

With the deal Greece has "ensured its place in the euro," Samaras added.

On financial markets, the euro initially rose in relief at the new breathing space for Greece, but later pulled back. Stocks posted modest gains.

The deal came in the form of approval for the latest slice of rescue funding to pay current bills, already agreed but tied to a new round of deep budget measures, and a new

look at the huge mountain of accumulated debt.

Former prime minister Evangelos Venizelos, now head of the Socialist PASOK party part of the ruling coalition, described the deal as "a new beginning" for Greece.

But Alexis Tsipras, head of the leftist opposition party Syriza, called the deal a "non-solution, which isn't a viable plan for our country" whose economy continues to contract under the effect of austerity measures.

Several thousand municipal workers and university staff protested against job cuts, spending cuts and tax rises that the government has implemented to get the rescue funds.

European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said that Greece must still meet a series of agreed conditions but "the decision will certainly reduce the uncertainty and strengthen confidence in Europe and in Greece."

Eurozone finance ministers agreed in principle to begin transferring in December 43.7 billion euros (\$57 billion) so that the country does not default at around the end of the year.



Current as of:
11/27/2012

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.78	1.80	1.82
Britain	GBP	2.79	2.84	2.90
Switzerland	CHF	191.52	192.24	193.04
Netherlands	EUR	228.75	230.84	233.16
Sweden	SEK	25.73	26.45	27.25
Denmark	DKK	29.99	30.71	31.51
Norway	NOK	30.41	31.13	31.93
Japan	JPY	214.87	216.83	219.01

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YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

HAL	ERR	FRO
ODE	FRAUD	LID
WON	LEND	AHAND
DEE	GENE	
ALTER	CRIB	
ALEC	HERE	VAN
NOAH	EGO	BASE
DOS	SAGS	UNIT
FEET	STOLE	
RUNT	EYE	
ALENDER	BE	NBA
GEL	YOURS	DUD
QAF	NEA	LTS



MARSEILLE : AFP photo shows people visiting the Seatrade Med Cruise & Superyacht Convention on November 27, 2012 in Marseille, southern France. Seatrade Med is a fair providing a meeting place for a wide range of industry suppliers to engage with purchasers and decision makers from cruise lines active in the Mediterranean. Senior officials and key decision makers from cruise and superyacht owners, operators and managers covering, Itinerary planning, Hotel operations, Technical operations, Purchasing, Sales & marketing, Marine operations, Turnkey operators and Naval architects are the target visitors

Multicultural Thanksgiving in Massachusetts With An Aruban Touch



--Ruth Hickman-Harms and Donna Hansen-Harms are Aruban-born sisters who live in Massachusetts and celebrate Thanksgiving every year with close friends and some foreign students attending any of the universities in the area. Expecting a total of 24 adults and children from different countries this year, they talked their father Clyde Harms and his Venezuelan wife Milagro into leaving the warm confines of Aruba to brave the New England cold to eat turkey with them. Milagro offered to prepare ayacas and Clyde re-

ceived from Aruba Tourism Authority some promotional materials to give the event this year an Aruban touch.

The Thanksgiving celebration in Amherst became a real multinational happening. In addition to the Aruban, Venezuelan and American hosts, among the guests were: one Peruvian graduate student married to a Colombian; an Argentine girl working on her Masters in Architecture; a young lady from Turkey working on her PhD in Cultural Anthropology and a young female student whose parents had come to the USA from Grenada. Also present was a Jamaican who came to UMass some 15 years ago to earn his PhD in Microbiology and stayed with the university and is now a highly regarded tenured professor.

It was also a multicultural

happening: There were Roman Catholics, Muslims, Seventh Day Adventists and other Christians. Among the American hosts there were two Amherst College professors, a pediatrician, an IT specialist, two social workers and a sports educator.

As there was also a birthday celebration, the blowing of the candles was accompanied by the singing of "Happy birthday" in English, Cumpelafios feliz" in Spanish and "Mutlu yillar sanai" in Turkish and ended with the Dutch "Lang zal ze leven" and "Hiep, hiep, hoera!"

At the end of the day, all who attended were impressed and happy with the unique multicultural and multinational celebration of the quintessential American Thanksgiving Day with an Aruban accent.

'Twilight' remains atop US box office

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The last "Twilight" vampire movie clung to the top of North America's box office for a second weekend, fighting off the latest 007 movie "Skyfall" in second place, figures showed Monday. "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 2," the fifth and final installment of the wildly popular series, took \$43.6 million dollars, according to industry tracker Exhibitor Relations. The previous four films, based on novels by Stephenie Meyer and starting in 2008, earned a colossal \$2.4 billion altogether. In second spot was the new James Bond movie "Skyfall," which earned \$35.5 million on its third weekend in theaters, or \$51 over the combined five days including last Thursday's Thanksgiving holiday. Third place went to Steven Spielberg film "Lincoln," starring Daniel Day-Lewis -- tipped for an Oscar for his role of America's assassinated 16th president -- which had \$25.7 million in ticket sales. Entering the top 10 in fourth place was "Rise of the Guardians," DreamWorks's latest animated offering in which Jack Frost is called to help in the battle against evil. It took \$23.8 million at the weekend.

Steak on a Stone-Le Petit Café's specialty



In a time when dining choices and critiques are based on value for your dollar, an old favorite, Le Petit Café, still offers one of the best values not only in price, but quality, quantity and ambiance.

Le Petit Café in Palm Beach offers charming surroundings reminiscent of a European outdoor café. Surrounded by Old World gaslights and an abundance of flora, it provides a delightful and romantic setting. In Oranjestad, diners can enjoy a breathtaking view of the harbor; particularly as the sun dips over the horizon and the lights of town set the waters aglow. Taking advantage of their Early Bird Special not only offers a great price for a delicious meal, but put you in the right place at the right time to enjoy Aruba's most spectacular daily performance; our stunning sunsets.

The Early Bird special offers a choice of a full sized chicken breast, a hefty portion of filet mignon or fresh grouper fillet accompanied by a well-stuffed baked potato, rice or french fries. There is a choice of soup or salad as a starter, and ice cream for dessert, all for a modest \$24.95; an unbeatable price for a great meal on Aruba!

Cooking your main course on the stone is a supremely healthy method of preparation, seasoned to perfection

and using no fats or oils. Fish in particular is excellent; extremely moist and tasty. A thick cut of filet mignon usually requires cutting into smaller sections to cook fully, especially if your preference is medium-well to well done.

Le Petit Café is particularly well known for its "Land and Sea" specialty, filet mignon and lobster tail; a gourmet treat when served in their signature fashion. The restaurant also offers a diverse menu of pastas and tempting gourmet appetizers such as seafood crepes, crispy calamari, and escargot. For family members in the mood for something different there are several dishes to choose from, such as chicken parmesan, so a large family with different ideas of what they want for dinner can easily be accommodated.

We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and Le Petit Café has also long been famous for the best value for breakfast on Aruba. They still offer a full breakfast buffet for \$9.95, another unbeatable value!

Le Petit Café is also located in the Paradise Beach Villas, so whether you are staying in Oranjestad, Palm Beach or Eagle Beach, a La Petit Café restaurant can be found only a short stroll away from you resort, a perfect way to begin or end your day!

15 MINUTE ENGLISH LIFESTYLE & NEWS SHOW

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The car rental name synonymous with savings will next month celebrate their golden anniversary of operating on

Aruba! One of the first of its kind to establish a car rental agency with highly competitive prices, it still maintains

that standard of offering the best service, a diverse fleet of vehicles to meet each renters needs, at the best price possible.

Budget has a fleet of 250 autos on Aruba, ranging from subcompact to authentic Jeep Wrangler® hardtop 4X4 or the stylish Toyota Rav 4, for exploring Aruba's outback in air-conditioned comfort. Their standard Toyota Yaris, the most popular model, is known for quality and dependability. Each year, they refresh 25% of their fleet and retire the older cars. Compared to the U.S., car rentals are quite affordable on Aruba, with the third party liability insurance included in the rental rates, as required by law.

Budget's head office is in Camacuri, not far from the airport, but they maintain an outlet right at the airport and another conveniently located in the Arawak Gardens in



Clean, dependable Toyota Yaris

Palm Beach, an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach resorts. Budget will provide free transportation to their Arawak Gardens outlet from any hotel, and return you to your door when turning in your car.

A Toyota Yaris rents for \$174 for the week; there is an additional airport concession fee to have a car available immediately on arrival, but this

is balanced out by the cost of roundtrip fares to most resorts, and on weekly rentals is a decided savings.

Budget has become the world's third largest car rental franchise because of their commitment to quality service and product at the best price possible, and the staff of Budget Car Rental Aruba is equally dedicated to seeing their customers smile

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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Football: Hiddink to quit coaching at season's end



THE HAGUE - (AFP) - Dutch football coach Guus Hiddink will bring the curtain down on an illustrious, globetrotting, coaching career at the end of the current season, the Anzhi Makhachkala handler told Dutch TV.

Hiddink has led both the Netherlands and South Korea to the World Cup semi-finals, took Russia to a European Championships semi-final, and won the European Cup (now the Champions League) with Dutch club PSV Eindhoven.

"I've still got the energy and still get a real buzz each time I step out onto a pitch, but I have to be careful not to stay on too long," said Hiddink, whose contract runs out with Anzhi in mid-2013.

"I still find football so wonderful that I'll likely stay in the milieu," he added, suggesting he could train young coaches or young players.

The 66-year-old, who has coached Real Madrid and Chelsea, did admit that a run at the Champions League with Anzhi next season could tempt him to stay on a year longer.

The Dagestan club, who have Samuel Eto'o in attack, are currently second in the Russian league after 17 games.

Football: UEFA consider scrapping Europa League - Platini

RENNE (AFP) - European football's governing body are considering scrapping the Europa League in favour of extending the Champions League, UEFA president Michel Platini told Wednesday's edition of the daily Ouest-France.

Asked about possible plans to extend the elite Champions League at the expense of the second-tier Europa League, Platini said: "There is an ongoing debate to determine what form the European competitions will have between 2015

and 2018. We're discussing it, we will make a decision in 2014. Nothing is decided yet."

One of the options being looked at is the possibility of extending the final phase of the Champions League from 32 to 64 teams.

The Europa League generates far lower revenue for clubs than the Champions League and has been criticised since it evolved from the UEFA Cup in 2009.

Meanwhile, the UEFA president said that he was not worried by talk of the creation by Europe's rich clubs of a competition to rival the Champions League.

"It's a question that is regularly brought up," said the former French midfielder.

"It doesn't worry me. I can't see how it could work outside the UEFA framework. Who will referee them? In what stadiums will they play? A lot of people want them? I don't think so."

pher Anand Daniel, told AFP.

He added the players may also be able to claim for damages as compensation for potential earnings while they were forced to sit out events.

The case highlighted a major point of contention between the Asian Tour and OneAsia, whose launch in 2009 sparked what has been called the region's "golf war".

Pilkadaris said he was "delighted" with the ruling, adding it was "simply unfair" that the Asian Tour barred players from OneAsia events even when the circuits' schedules were not in direct conflict.

The Asian Tour said it would consider the ruling before deciding whether to appeal.

But OneAsia chairman and commissioner Sang Y. Chun said the ruling showed it was "illogical" to stop players from taking part in both tours.

SPORTS

Football: Barca rests Messi for domestic cup tie

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona say they have decided to rest Lionel Messi and six other top players for today's domestic cup match against third division Alaves.

Coach Tito Vilanova decided not to play Messi, goalie Victor Valdes, Andres Iniesta, Gerard Pique, Sergio Busquets, Xavi Hernandez, and Jordi Alba, for the return match at Camp Nou. Barcelona won 3-0 away in the first match.

Vilanova justified his decision to leave Messi out just as

the Argentinian star nears German legend Gerd Mueller's all-time calendar record of 85 goals set in 1972.

Messi has 82 so far in 2012. Spanish forward David Villa rejoins the squad after being sidelined for two weeks with an ankle injury picked up in the 3-1 home win over Zaragoza on November 17.

Five players from Barcelona's reserve team have been called up for today however -- Oier Olazabal, Cristian Tello, Sergi Roberto, Gerard Deulofeu, and Carles Planas.

Golf: 'Golf war' players win case against Asian Tour



2011 file photo - Guido van der Valk

SINGAPORE (AFP) - Four professional golfers forced the Asian Tour to pay back fines and legal costs and let them play on the rival OneAsia circuit after winning a lengthy court battle on Tuesday.

The players -- Australia's Terry Pilkadaris and Matthew Griffin, Manila-based Dutchman Guido van der Valk and Malaysia's Anis Hassan -- emerged victorious after a year-long restraint of trade

case at the Singapore High Court.

The players launched the legal action after they were fined and barred from Asian Tour events for playing OneAsia tournaments in 2010.

"The judge declared that all of those rules which allowed the Asian Tour to prohibit its players from playing on other tournaments... were restraint of trade and therefore null and void," their lawyer, Christo-

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NBA: Spurs slam dunk hapless Wizards

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The San Antonio Spurs kept Washington winless this season by beating the Wizards 118-92 Monday behind a balanced offensive attack and 16 points from Boris Diaw.

Tiago Splitter added 15 points and 12 rebounds, while Tony Parker also had 15 points for the Spurs, who have won four-straight National Basketball Association contests. Tim Duncan had 14 points, Gary Neal netted 13, Manu Ginobili scored 12 and Matt Bonner finished with 11 at the Verizon Center arena. Jordan Crawford paced Washington with 19 points and Kevin Seraphin finished with 18 as the Wizards dropped to 0-12 on the season.



It is their worst start in franchise history. San Antonio shot 72.2 percent from the field in the third quarter as the Spurs outscored the Wizards 33-22 en route to a 92-70 lead entering

the final quarter.

Washington never threatened, trailing by as much as 29 in the fourth quarter.

The Wizards played without forward Nene, who was out with a foot injury.

Football: Dortmund held at home by 10-man Fortuna

BERLIN (AFP) - Borussia Dortmund conceded a late equaliser to draw 1-1 at home to 10-man Fortuna Duesseldorf on Tuesday as Bayern Munich's lead at the top of the Bundesliga leaders remains a commanding eight points.

Bayern host second-placed Dortmund on Saturday in the clash of the Bundesliga titans and with Munich playing on to night at Freiburg, Dortmund missed both the chance to shorten the gap and earn their fifth-straight victory.

Both Schalke 04 and Eintracht Frankfurt, in the pack chasing Bayern, suffered shock defeats and Bayern can go 11 points clear with a victory at Freiburg.

Dortmund coach Jurgen Klopp left out midfield stars Mario Goetze and Ilkay Gun-

dogan, plus defender Mats Hummels, who were all carrying knocks.

Duesseldorf were reduced to 10 men when ex-Dortmund midfielder Ivan Paurevic was shown an 87th-minute red card after earning a second booking when he brought down Borussia defender Lukasz Piszczek.

Schalke suffered a 3-1 defeat at Hamburg as midfielder Maximilian Beister slammed home the hosts' opener -- which was recorded at 117km per hour -- on 52 minutes, then helped set up Latvia striker Artjoms Rudnevs three minutes.

Hanover 96 moved up into sixth, amongst the European places, with a 2-0 win at home to second-from-bottom Greuther Fuerth.

Boxing: Flintoff insists fight debut is no gimmick

MANCHESTER (AFP) - Former England cricket hero Andrew Flintoff has found himself on the back foot even before he throws his first punch for money in the boxing ring on Friday night.

Freddie, as he is fondly known in Britain, is being filmed as part of a documentary series on Sky television, "Flintoff: From Lord's To The Ring", which culminates in his professional boxing debut against American Richard Dawson.

For the past five months the 34-year-old Flintoff has been trained by former world featherweight champion Barry McGuigan and his son, Shane, as he gears up for four two-minute rounds against Dawson, who has won both his previous fights.

But he has received criticism that he is not taking boxing seriously and that Friday will be all about TV, not sport, with British promoter Frank Maloney hitting out at boxing authorities over the decision to grant Flint off a licence.

Flintoff, who stands an imposing 6 feet 4 inches (1.93 metres) tall, insists his new career as a heavyweight boxer is for real and he is not motivated by the intention to make a documentary series about it.

"I understand people are protective of the sport, but I'm

going in the ring on Friday and that's what all my energy is going into," Flintoff told AFP.

"There's no talk of disrespecting boxing but of celebrating boxing, and I hope I manage to do that. I'm a boxing fan and sport has been very good to me over the years.

"The fight came before the TV show -- the TV show is a result of getting the fight, but you saw on the TV show... that I've put the hours in."

Flintoff retired from cricket two years ago after a colourful career including two Ashes victories over Australia in 2005 and 2009.

When he steps into the ring at the Manchester Arena, the venue will look a lot emptier than it was last weekend, when 20,000 people watched former world champion Ricky Hatton make an unsuccessful comeback.

Ticket sales have been slow for Flintoff's professional boxing bow, but he hopes those who do turn up or watch on television take him seriously.

As a morale booster for Flintoff, and to make the documentary series more interesting, ring legends Mike Tyson and Sugar Ray Leonard have come into the gym to offer advice.

"I was fortunate enough to have Sugar Ray Leonard pop down and spend an hour with us," Flintoff said.

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NFL: Newton shines as Panthers shoot down Eagles, Bay's Eric Wright slapped with suspension

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - The Carolina Panthers won the battle between two last-place teams by beating the Philadelphia Eagles 30-22, behind a resurgent performance from quarterback Cam Newton.

Newton passed for two touchdowns and ran in two for the Panthers who halted a modest two-game losing streak.

He completed 18-of-28 passes for 306 yards and had 52 yards on 15 carries as the Panthers won their third game of the season to go with eight losses.

Newton had a superb rookie season last year but has had trouble repeating that success in his second National Football League season.

Carolina is last in the NFC South Division, two games adrift of the New Orleans Saints.

Steve Smith finished with four catches for 60 yards while Gary Barnidge and Brandon LaFell had first-quarter touchdown catches in the victory.

Smith became the 27th player of all-time in the NFL to go over 11,000 receiving yards in his career.

"We wanted to get the momentum back on our side and finish this game the right way," Newton said. "Everybody was accountable and executed. It was just 11 guys on offence working for a common goal."

Running back Bryce Brown set a rookie single game record for Philadelphia

with 178 yards. He rushed the ball 19 times and had two touchdowns along with four catches for 11 yards.

Brown was making his first career start in place of an injured LeSean McCoy, who suffered a concussion in last week's loss to Washington.

He also had two fumbles in the second half. Eagles quarterback Nick Foles made his second consecutive start in place of Michael Vick who is also recovering from a concussion.

Foles completed 16-of-21 passes, but managed just 119 yards. Philadelphia lost its seventh consecutive game for the first time since losing the final seven games of the 1994 season and are two games behind Washington and Dallas for last place in the NFC East.

While in Tampa, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers cornerback Eric Wright was slapped with a four-game suspension by the NFL's disciplinary officials for violating the league's policy on performance-enhancing drugs.

The American media reported that the six-year pro was hit with the ban for using

the drug Adderall. Tampa coach Greg Schiano made the announcement at a news conference on Monday.

Signed as a free agent in the off-season, Wright started all 10 games he appeared in and had 39 tackles and one interception for Tampa Bay.

Wright had been hampered by an Achilles' injury of late and did not play in the Buccaneers' 24-23 loss to Atlanta on Sunday.



Carolina Panthers wide receiver Louis Murphy, center, pulls in a pass as Philadelphia Eagles cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, right, and free safety Kurt Coleman defend

Nominations for Laureus World Sportsman of the Year hots up



-- LONDON, Organizers of the yearly Laureus World Awards said that the 2013 event will set up one of the most exciting contests ever for the Sportsman of the Year. German Formula One racing driver Sebastian Vettel, American professional basketball player LeBron James, footballers Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, Jamaican sprint king Usain Bolt, Golf Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy and Swimming sensation Michael Phelps are some of the top nominations for the 2013 Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award that is gearing up for an exciting contest following a spectacular year of sports accomplishments.

Laureus list Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps as the favorites for the six nominees for the award. Besides, other Olympic heroes in contention include China's swimming talents Sun Yang, Mo Farah, David Rudisha, and Bradley Wiggins.

The names of the six nominees for the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award, as voted by the Laureus Media Selection Panel, comprising leading sports editors, sports writers, broadcasters and online journalists from around the world, will be announced in Rio de Janeiro on December 13.

The eventual winner will then be chosen from this shortlist by the 46 members of the Laureus World Sports Academy, the living legends of sport honoring the greatest athletes of today.

The Laureus World Sports Awards is recognized as the premier honors event in the international sporting calendar and the awards ceremony provides a high profile focus as stars of the sporting world come together to salute the finest sportsmen and sportswomen of the year.

The winners will be unveiled during a globally televised awards ceremony in Rio de Janeiro in 2013.



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